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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/626,960	07/24/2003	Clifford L. Winings	FCI-2656/C3138	3955
23377	7590	02/01/2005	EXAMINER	
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP ONE LIBERTY PLACE, 46TH FLOOR 1650 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			LUEBKE, RENEE S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 02/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.A

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/626,960

Applicant(s)

WININGS ET AL.

Examiner

Renee S. Luebke

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,6,9-11,13-26,33-36 and 38-47 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13-16 and 46 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,11,22-26,33-36,38-45 and 47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5,9,10 and 17-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. The disclosure remains objected to because the contacts 32 are not seen to be "fingers" which suggests a free end. Contrary to applicant's assertion, finger does not have a different definition in this art than it does in other situations. To describe something as having or being a finger implies that it has a free end. Appropriate corrections are required.

2. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9-11, 17-26, 33-36, 38-41 and 45 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- a. Claim 1 lacks antecedent basis for "the portion" on line 4.
- b. On line 2 of claim 6, it appears that "can be" should be deleted.
- c. On line 3 of claim 11, it appears that the first occurrence of "and" should be deleted.
- d. Claim 18 lacks antecedent basis for "the first contact" and "the angled portion" on lines 2 and 3 respectively. In addition, it appears that there is text missing from line 5.
- e. Claim 21 lacks antecedent basis for "the first contact" on line 3.
- f. Claim 22 lacks antecedent basis for "the first contact" on lines 1-2.
- g. Most of claim 24 is redundant, repeating much of claim 23 from which it depends.
- h. Claim 40 lacks antecedent basis for "the contact fingers" on line 2.
- i. On line 4 of claim 45, it appears that a comma should be inserted after "housing."

Appropriate corrections are required.

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

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4. Claims 1, 6, 11, 25, 26, 33-36, 38-43 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasircoglu, et al. in view of Klosowiak, et al. As previously noted, the connector of Hasircoglu comprises a plug comprising a circuit board, a contact finger, a housing, a portion of the board extending from the housing, a flexible portion, a receptacle, a contact 22, and a housing having a slot. It lacks a flexible portion that is thinner than the remainder of the board. However, Klosowiak teaches a board that is made flexible by thinning 24, 25. This structure easily defines the location for flexing and is easier to construct than individual holes, such as that of Hasircoglu. Therefore, it would have been obvious to form the flexible portion of Hasircoglu by thinning the board as taught by Klosowiak.

In regard to claims 11, 40 and 41, as previously noted, it would have been obvious to use conductive traces on the wafers, and to use a rib on the circuit board and a slot on the housing of Hasircoglu.

5. Claims 22-24 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hasircoglu and Klosowiak in view of Paagman (US Pat. 6,083,047, as correctly assumed by applicant). As previously noted, the similar connector of Paagman '047 comprises contacts and a ground plane that render obvious the limitations of these claims.

6. Claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hasircoglu, et al. This connector comprises a plug 100 comprising a circuit board 110, a contact finger 190, a housing 120, 610, a portion 117 of the board extending from the housing, a flexible portion 112, a receptacle 200, a contact 22, and a housing 220, 710 having a slot 732. As shown in Figs. 8B and 8C, the flexible portion is wave-shaped.

7. Claims 46 and 13-16 are allowed.

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8. Claims 5, 9, 10 and 17-21 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The connector of De Vuyst, et al. also comprises a thinned portion in order to allow flexibility. The connector of Nelson, et al. incorporates flexibility in order to operate in a manner similar to that of the present invention.

10. Any response to this action may be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mrs. Renee Luebke at (571) 272-2009. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. Paula Bradley, can be reached at (571) 272-2800, extension 33.



Renee S. Luebke
Primary Patent Examiner
January 26, 2005